

NAWTEC Speaker Abstract
EPA's Performance Track and Its Practical Application

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Performance Track is a voluntary environmental partnership between the government and participating U.S. facilities of all types and sizes. The Environmental Protection Agency governs and operates the Performance Track program in conjunction with the state environmental agencies. The goal of Performance Track is to provide environmental leadership and pollution reduction at its source. This presentation will provide insight on how Montenay Bay operates according to its Performance Track commitments. Montenay Bay is a waste-to-energy facility in Panama City, Florida. The presentation will describe how Montenay Bay qualified for the Performance Track program, and how it positively influences their normal operating decision making processes. A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be available for the remainder of the presentation time to answer any questions conference members might have concerning the EPA Performance Track program.

Montenay Bay LLC is a Waste-to-Energy facility in Panama City, Florida. Its parent company is Veolia Environmental Services of North America (VESNA). Montenay Bay currently processes 490 tons per day of MSW via an O'Connor type combustor. The facility has been operational since 1987, and VESNA took over operational duties in 1999. EPA Performance Track program started in June of 2000, and as of October 2006 has more than 400 facilities in 46 states participating in the program. All members commit to making specific environmental improvements when they join the program. These environmental commitments each last three years, and an Annual Progress Report is filed every year. To date, Performance Track members report that they have collectively conserved their water use by about 3.5 billion gallons, conserved close to 14,250 acres of land, increased their use of recycled materials by approximately 120,000 tons, reduced greenhouse gas emissions by almost 90,000 tons, and reduced smog-causing emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide by 6,339 and 17,355 tons respectively [1].

The EPA's Performance Track goals and objectives are to create a partnership with the EPA and facilities of all types and sizes throughout the United States. This partnership seeks to provide environmental leadership to the facilities, and in return the facilities reduce their environmental impact at its source. With continuous improvement being emphasized, facilities agree to three year commitments. These commitments can fit into a wide array of categories, but the overall intention of the program is to assist the facility in lessening its impact upon the environment. This commitment is set up in a measurable manner, with adjustments taken into consideration for changes in facility operations (normalization). Some of the approved Performance Track goals are: reducing water use, reducing the amount of water discharged, increasing the use of recycled materials, conserving acres of land, reducing air emissions, and reducing the amount of hazardous waste

generated by the facility [2]. The EPA requires the facility to report its progress towards their commitments annually, and to set new goals every three years. These reports are submitted electronically, and the EPA even offers conference calls to assist those new to submitting the reports to ease the transition into the Performance Track program. Montenay Bay started their Performance Track involvement in 2004. The two commitments were: reduction of particulate matter (PM10) emissions and reduction in well water usage by the facility.

The Performance Track commitments work well with Montenay Bay's environmental management system. Montenay Bay is a registered ISO 14001 company which requires that the facility set Targets and Objectives for improvements. Since the ISO program requires regular and documented committee meetings, it also ensures that the Performance Track commitments are being reviewed and addressed throughout the calendar year.

Montenay Bay began the well water commitment with a baseline value of 81,508,428 gallons (all numeral values are actual readings and not normalized). The first year of the commitment, Montenay Bay used 80,250,000 gallons. The number dropped to 66,742,480 the second year, and finally dropped to 27,280,864 gallons last year. The dramatic drop in well water use can be linked to a variety of reasons. All facility floor drains to the sewer were blocked and are now reused for the ash residue system. Boiler blowdowns no longer go to the sewer but go to the cooling tower basin. Additionally, when a demineralizer train goes through regeneration, the water is directed to the cooling tower basin. Since the majority of makeup water from the well water system was going to the ash residue and cooling tower systems, this dramatically reduced the need for well water at our facility. The continued reviewing of Performance Track goals by the ISO 14001 program helped personnel always being thinking of new ways to reduce well water usage. Relatively small changes in the way the facility operates with minimal investment in facility piping changes helped Montenay Bay reduce well water usage by approximately 94 million gallons over three years. The

P e r f o r m a n c e

Reginald Barrino is the Region IV Performance Track Coordinator for the EPA. He will not be participating in my presentation but has agreed to make himself available during the presentation's time slot to answer any questions people might have about Performance Track.

Jerome Barthelemy is the Environmental, Health and Safety Manager at Montenay Bay. He has worked at Montenay Bay for over seven years, and has over thirteen years of operational power plant experience. He has a Bachelors Degree in Business Management.

[1] EPA Performance Track Website. "Performance Track Member Fast Facts." Website address: <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/downloads/fastfacts.htm>

[2] EPA Performance Track Website. "Basic Information." Website address: <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/about.htm>